(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Doordarshan is taking to re-launch well-established TV serial makers who have been denied access to Doordarshan inspite of giving excellent programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) There are more than 200 TV channels available over the Indian skies. In respect of private TV channels the Government does not have a role to play in their programming content, except for insisting on adherence to the Programme and Advertisement Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder.

As far as Doordarshan is concerned it constantly endeavours to telecast serials that are of a high professional standard both in terms of technical parameters as well as content and which provide wholesome entertainment to its viewers.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan selects the sponsored/ commissioned programmes in accordance with the criteria prescribed in the relevent guidelines which includes among other things the track record of the applicant producer.

Trivialization of news media

2042. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the comments expressed at a Seminar on media ethics at Mumbai about the growing trivialization of the news media and developments such as sting operations, and the ethical compromises journalists at times have to make etc. to collect specific types of news at the behest of editors; and

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking of making an in-depth study of this situation, especially when growth of resources for the print media are leading to a perceptible decline in the quality of practice, so that journalistic ethics are not diluted?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The Government is not aware of any such Seminar on media ethics at Mumbai. However, the Press Council of India, recently, on the occasion of National Press Day (November 16, 2005) had suggested to all the State Governments/UTs and media

establishments to organize discussions through Seminars/Workshops/ Symposium on the subject of "Media Ethics: Fetters or Freedom", considered as being of vital importance and relevance in present times.

Urdu channel launch by Doordarshan

2043. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Urdu channel would be launched;

(b) the steps taken to make Urdu channel of Doordarshan a success;

(c) the number of persons recruited for the new Urdu channel;

(d) whether Doordarshan has held meetings with Urdu scholars, educationists, poets, writers, film personalities to make a success of this channel; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan's Urdu channel is likely to go on air in the middle of 2006. Preparatory action is underway to finalise matters relating, *inter-alia,* to putting in place the requisite infrastructure, the format and content of the channel along with the requisite personnel. So far, no recruitment has been made for the new Urdu channel. No need has been felt for such interaction at the present juncture.

Extra working days in Supreme Court and High Courts

2044. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble President has suggested to work on Saturdays and Sundays to reduce the pendency of cases in High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal before Government to make it mandatory for Supreme Court and High Courts to work on Saturdays and Sundays at least, till the pendency is cleared; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) Though suggestions for increasing the working days and working hours of the Supreme Court and High Courts